GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:307
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Okhla Bird Sanctuary
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eco-sensitive zone has been notified around the Okhla Bird Sanctuary and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the birds are likely to be affected by the high rise buildings coming up at such close proximity to the sanctuary;
(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(d) the number of trees felled as result of construction projects near the sanctuary and compensatory afforestation taken up in this regard; and
(e) whether the area around Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru has been declared as an eco-sensitive zone and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to remove encroachment therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Okhla Bird Sanctuary in the State of Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi vide notification dated 19.08.2015 to conserve and protect the area up to one hundred meters from the eastern, western and southern boundary and up to 1.27 kilometers from the northern boundary of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary from ecological and environmental point of view to serve as a safety zone for the birds in Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

(b) & (c) An eco-sensitive zone around Okhla Bird Sanctuary was notified based on proposal of extent of area identified by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi as eco-sensitive and also keeping in view of the fact that the Sanctuary is situated in the midst of thickly populated city of NCT of Delhi and adjoining NOIDA in district Gautam Budh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, which forms a part of the National Capital Region of Delhi.
The ESZ for Okhla Bird Sanctuary was notified after detailed consultations, comments of the various stakeholders on the draft Notification, joint field visit conducted by a team of officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, and recommendation of the Expert Committee on ESZ in the Ministry and approval of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife.

(d)Data on the number of trees felled for construction of projects near the Okhla Bird Sanctuary is not available in the Ministry. Felling of trees for development purposes is permitted as per the extant laws, rules and regulations.

(e) No Madam.
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